

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. KHALID'S VISIT TO JORDAN

FOLLOWING KING KHALID'S VISIT, AMBASSADOR PICKERING DISCUSSED THE RESULTS WITH KING HUSSEIN AND LATER WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI. ACCORDING TO THE TWO MEN:

--A GOOD DEAL OF TIME WAS SPENT TRYING TO ALTER THE SAUDIS' ANTAGONISTIC VIEW OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS.

--BECAUSE OF CAREFUL EGYPTIAN HANDLING OF THEM, THEIR VIEW THAT SINAI II HELPED TO AVOID WAR AND HOPES FOR PROFIT FROM INVESTMENTS IN EGYPT, THE SAUDIS ARE PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT EGYPT AND

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PRESIDENT SADAT.

--WHILE THE SYRIANS THINK SADAT HAS BEEN HURT BY THE SINAI AGREEMENT AND IS IN A WEAK POLITICAL POSITION, THE SAUDIS--AND THE JORDANIANS--DISAGREE.

--THE SAUDIS WERE TAKEN BACK BY THE HIGH COST OF THE US AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN. HUSSEIN THINKS THE SAUDIS WILL SUPPORT THE PURCHASE, BUT RIFAI BELIEVES THEY HAVE NOT YET DECIDED.

KHALID, WHO HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN IMMENSELY FLATTERED, TOLD HIS HOSTS THAT SADAT HAD GIVEN HIM CARTE BLANCHE TO WORK OUT ANY AGREEMENT HE WISHED WITH THE SYRIANS ON SADAT'S BEHALF. HUSSEIN, HOWEVER, SEES NO POSSIBILITY OF ANY KIND OF AN EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT AND EXPECTS RELATIONS TO DETERIORATE FURTHER NEXT YEAR. (SECRET) AMMAN 9959 AND 10009 (EXDIS), 12/29.)

2. USSR: CREDIT PROBLEMS MAY PREVENT MAJOR US DEALS

DURING A CALL AT THE MINISTRY OF OIL INDUSTRY BY EMBASSY OFFICERS, A MINISTRY OFFICIAL STATED THAT FIVE MAJOR PROJECTS TALLING \$800 MILLION WERE BEING HELD UP BECAUSE OF FINANCING PROBLEMS. IN EACH INSTANCE, THE SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE BANK REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT BECAUSE, HE CLAIMED, NO AMERICAN CREDITS OF ANY KIND, EITHER COMMERCIAL OR EXIM, WERE AVAILABLE.

AS A RESULT, THE OFFICIAL SAID, THOUGH THE MINISTRY HAS A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR BUYING AMERICAN, IT MAY EVENTUALLY BE FORCED TO TURN TO WESTERN EUROPE OR JAPAN WHERE CREDITS ARE OBTAINABLE. (THE EMBASSY ALSO NOTES THE OFFICIAL'S COMMENT THAT LOWER PRIORITY PROJECTS ARE BEING SHELVED--PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE NEW HARD CURRENCY LIMITATIONS IMPOSED FOLLOWING THE GRAIN PURCHASES.) (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 18447, 12/29.)

3. PORTUGAL: ANTUNES GOES SHOPPING

FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES DEPARTED LISBON DECEMBER 27 FOR A SECRET

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3-DAY VISIT TO IRAQ, WITH POSSIBLE STOPS IN OTHER ARAB STATES. EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT ANTUNES HOPES TO CAPITALIZE ON THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND IRAQ TO:

--ARRANGE A BARTER FOR IRAQI PETROLEUM;

--OBTAIN A GOLD-SECURED LOAN; AND

--DEVELOP BUSINESS FOR PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ANTUNES HAS BEEN A LEADING EXPONENT OF THE NEED FOR PORTUGAL TO DEVELOP A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY THE ARAB STATES, BUT SO FAR THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY CONCRETE RESULTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 7645, 12/27.)

4. ECUADOR EXTENDS EXCLUSIVE FISHING LIMIT TO 60 MILES

ECUADOR'S FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INFORMED EMBASSY QUITO THAT A 60-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE IS NOW IN EFFECT, APPLYING TO WATERS OFF BOTH THE CONTINENTAL ECUADOREAN COAST AND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. A MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID ECUADOR WILL "INITIALLY EXERCISE PRUDENCE" IN ENFORCING THE LAW UNTIL FOREIGN FISHERMEN HAVE HAD TIME TO BECOME AWARE OF THE NEW LIMITS. THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT ALL US FISHERMEN WILL BE ADVISED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) QUITO 9438, 12/29.)

5. IRAN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO EGYPT

THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR EILTS DECEMBER 28 THAT IRAN HAS JUST GIVEN EGYPT \$200 MILLION IN "NO-STRINGS" AID. THE CASH CONTRIBUTION, PROBABLY PART OF ALMOST ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE PROMISED BY THE SHAH, WILL HELP EGYPT MEET ITS \$300 MILLION SHORT TERM DEBT DUE DECEMBER 31. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 13051 (EXDIS), 12/29.)

6. AFTERMATH OF ARGENTINE AIR FORCE REVOLT

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES POINTS OUT THAT WHILE THE REVOLT FAILED

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ED IN ITS ATTEMPT TO IMMEDIATELY TOPPLE MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT, THE HARDLINERS IN THE MILITARY WERE PLACATED BY PROMISES OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION WITHIN A SHORT TIME--PROBABLY BY THE END OF JANUARY AND POSSIBLY SOONER. WHILE ARMY CINC VIDELA HOPES THE CIVILIANS CAN MOVE MRS. PERON ASIDE ON THEIR OWN, IF THEY CANNOT, HE WILL BE FACED WITH THE CHOICE OF DOING IT HIMSELF OR BEING OUSTED BY THOSE WHO FAVOR AN OUT-AND-OUT GOLPE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEUNOS AIRES 8404, 12/29.)

7. ANGOLA ROUNDUP

QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA HAREL TOLD EMBASSY PARIS THAT CERTAIN FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN MODERATES (HOUPHOUET, BONGO) ARE THINKING OF NOT SHOWING UP AT THE ADDIS SUMMIT.

THE GOF IS LEANING HARD ON THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY ATTEND.
HAREL ADDED THAT:

--THE INITIAL FRENCH VIEW IN ITS CURRENT ROUND OF
BRAINSTORMING IS THAT THE AFRICANS MUST BE PRESSED ON
THE DANGER OF ANGOLAN PARTITION. THE QUAI FEELS THAT
THE AFRICANS ARE HIGHLY VULNERABLE ON THIS POINT, AND
WOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE GRANTING OAU RECOGNITION TO
THE MPLA IF SUCH AN ACTION WERE EQUATED WITH THE PRO-
SPECT OF PARTITION.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

--EMBASSY GEORGETOWN NOTES THAT PRIME MINISTER BURN-
HAM IS TREADING WATER ON THE CUBAN TRANSIT ISSUE, HOP-
ING THAT THE OAU SUMMIT WILL PRODUCE A CLEAR CONSEN-
SUS TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA. BURNHAM MAY EVEN BE GIV-
ING A SHOVE IN THAT DIRECTION, AND THERE ARE OMINOUS
REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS WILL BE GOING TO
LUANDA SOON.

--EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY
ON ANGOLA, WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING EXTREMELY HEAVY
RECENTLY, IS AIMED AT REBUTTING US STATEMENTS URGING
A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OUTSIDE
FORCES. (SECRET) PARIS 33787 (EXDIS); (CONFIDENTIAL)
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GEORGETOWN 2204 (EXDIS); (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOS-
18458 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) MEXICO 11395, 12/29.)

8. MEXICO: RABASA RESIGNATION

EMBASSY MEXICO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MONDAY
NIGHT ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA.
RABASA WILL BE REPLACED BY MEXICO'S CURRENT AMBASSADOR TO
THE UN ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES. NO REASON FOR RABASA'S
RESIGNATION WAS GIVEN, BUT THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT
ECHEVERRIA'S DECISION TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLU-
TION MAY HAVE BEEN THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RESIGNATION MAY PORTEND SOME NEW
INITIATIVE PLANNED BY ECHEVERRIA WHICH EVEN RABASA COULD
NOT STOMACH. (CONFIDENTIAL) MEXICO 11410, 12/30.) ROBINSON

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